



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-0898

Permit Modification.

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	22 February 2007
EXPIRATION DATE:	8 March 2007
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1993-87-R
WATERWAY:	Aloha Creek

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Taiga Mining Company, Inc., PO Box 113108, Anchorage, AK 99511-3108

LOCATION: The proposed project is located within sections 20, 21, 27, 28, 29 and 30, T. 10 N., R. 15 E., Kateel River Meridian; Latitude 66.2435° N., Longitude 155.7499° W.; approximately 110 miles north of Galena, and 240 miles west of Fairbanks Alaska.

PURPOSE: Continued commercial recovery of gold ore.

WORK: Excavate approximately 24.4 acres of wetlands for ore recovery and fill approximately 10.6 acres of wetlands of recovered material. Approximately 169,511 cubic yards (cy) of organic material would be stockpiled and used for recovery fill material. Also proposed is the construction of a 4,400' long, 20' wide, 3' deep diversion structure that would excavate material from a 2 acre area and use 3 acres to construct. Also proposed is a temporary access road, approximately 4,200' long and 18' wide. The road would be constructed with approximately 5,600 cubic yards of gravel material and occupy approximately 1.75 acres of wetlands.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The proposed project would operate on existing Department of the Army conditions incorporated in the original authorizations and within mitigating measures agreed to by the applicant and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Bureau of Land Management.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are no listed or eligible properties in the vicinity of the worksite. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between the Federal government and Federally recognized Tribes. This notice invites participation by agencies, Tribes, and members of the public in the Federal decision-making process. In addition, Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Engineer during the public comment period.

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or modify their designated critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996 (MSFCMA), 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. EFH, including Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC), in the Alaska District are described for species managed under a federal Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Final Environmental Impact Statement for Essential Fish Habitat Identification and Conservation in Alaska (April 2005) to locate and identify EFH in the vicinity of the proposed action.

The stream that are anadromous that may be impacted is Aloha Creek. The Bureau of Land Management determined that the proposal would adversely affect Chum Salmon habitat with out the addition of permit conditions. Therefore, BLM approved the plan with mitigating measures to prevent further degradation of the habitat. The BLM completed an EFH consultation on the project. The Corps agrees that the conditions included by BLM would be included in the DA permit should a permit modification be issued.

Therefore, we have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit modification will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Allan g. Skinner at (907) 753-2712, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at allan.g.skinner@poa02.usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan, Notice of Application for Certification of Consistency with the Alaska Coastal Management Program, and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments

Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
Aloha Creek
Vicinity Map

HUGHES A-6

PROJECT
LOCATION

Project Area

POA-1993-87-R

DRAWN BY:

TMC

DATE:

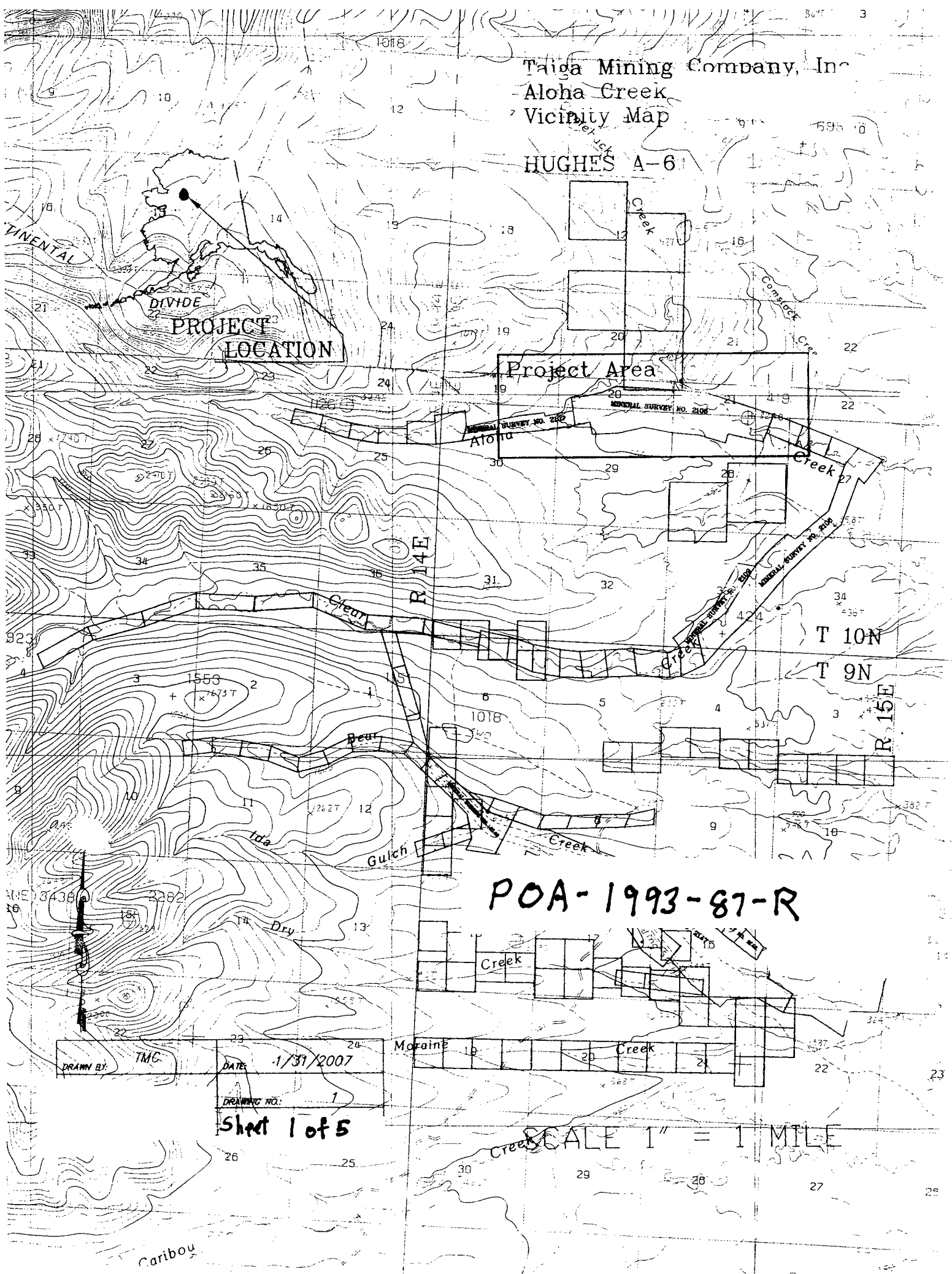
1/31/2007

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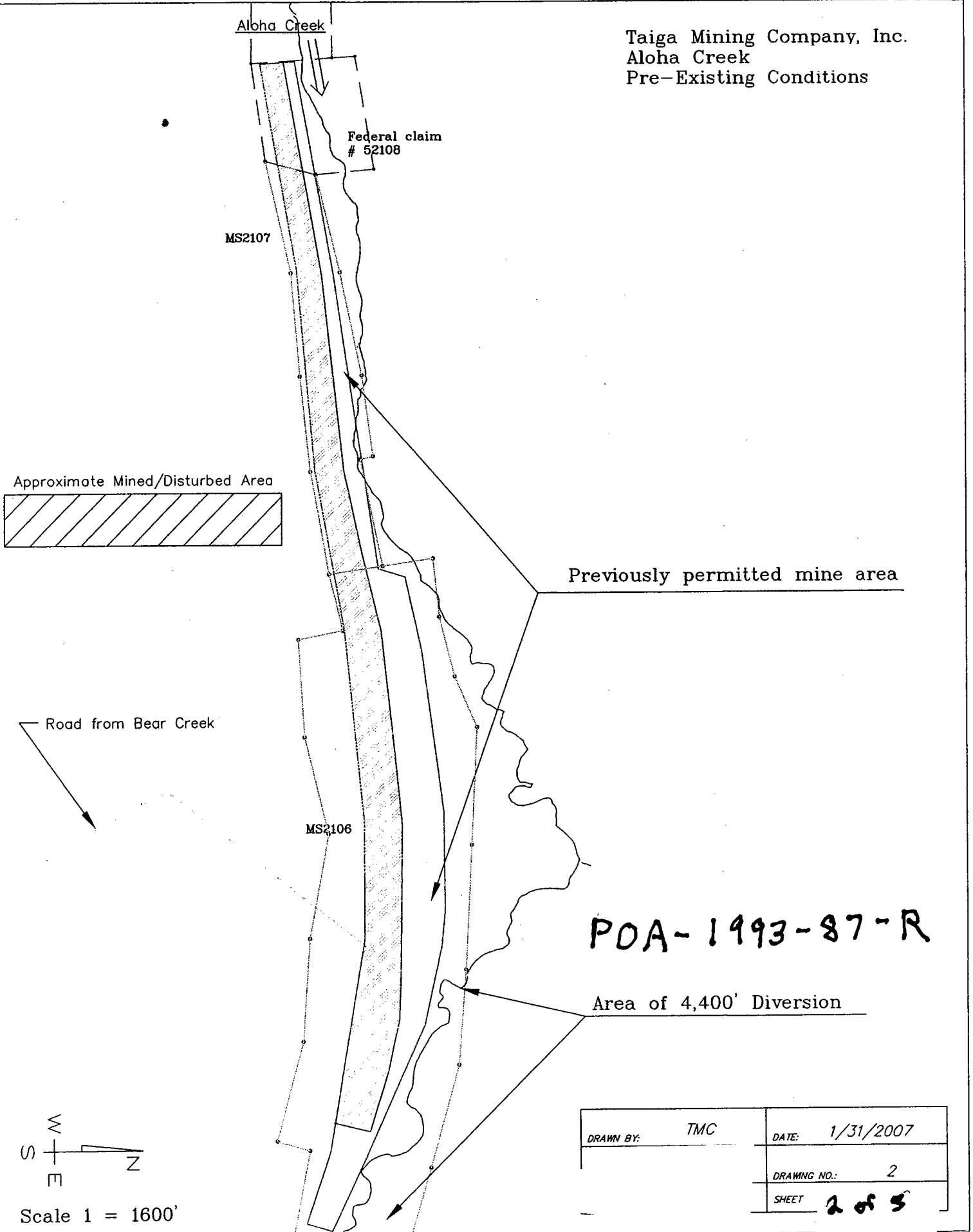
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Sheet 1 of 5

SCALE 1" = 1 MILE



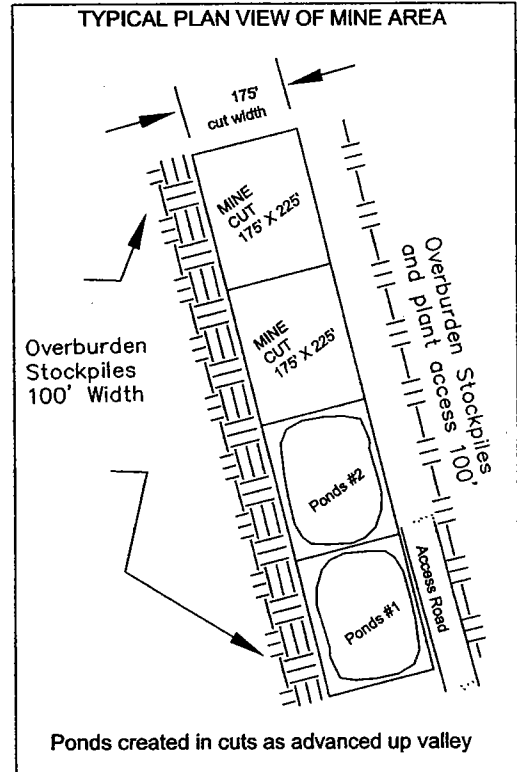
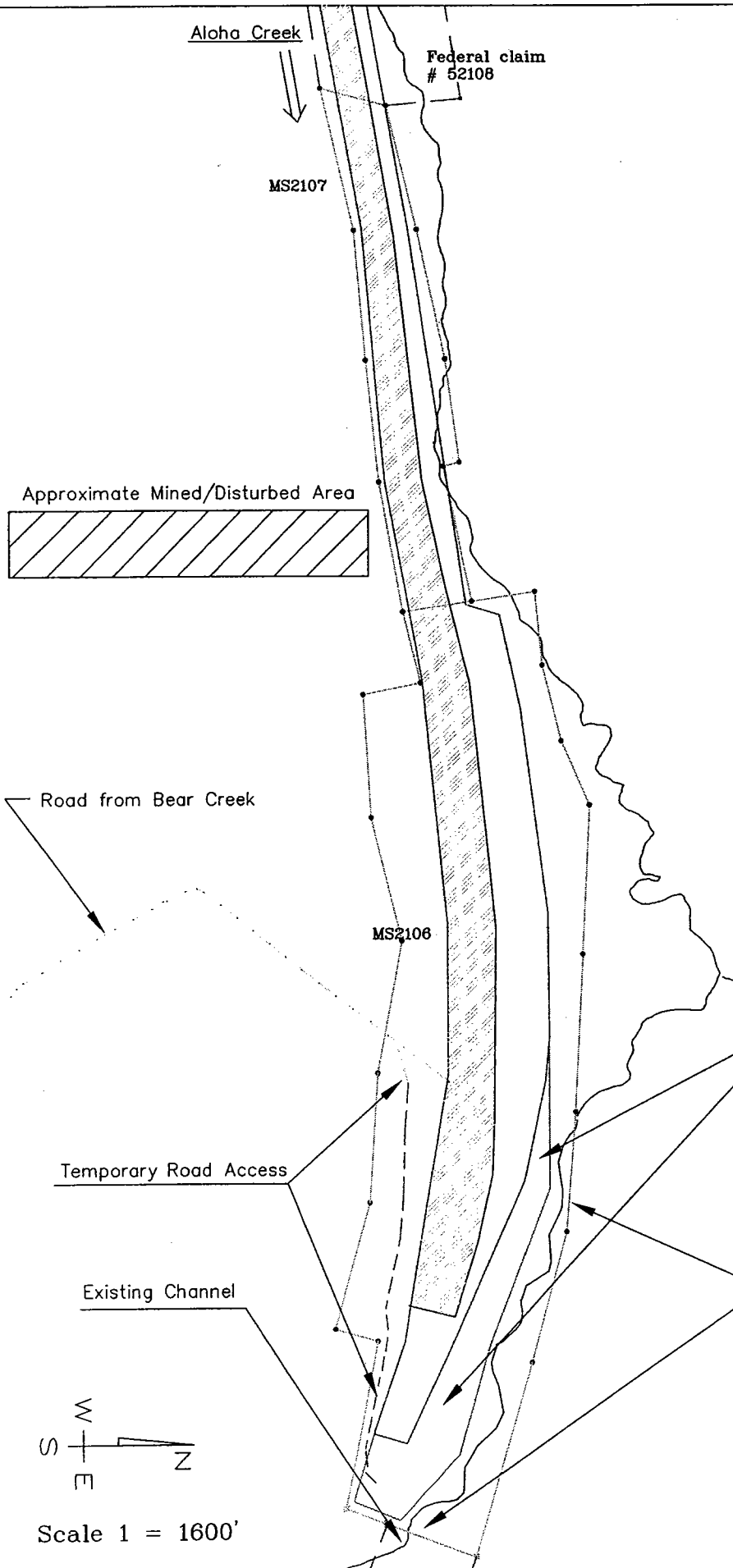
Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
Aloha Creek
Pre-Existing Conditions



POA-1993-87-R

DRAWN BY:	TMC	DATE:	1/31/2007
		DRAWING NO.:	2
		SHEET	2 of 5

Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
Aloha Creek
Mine Plan



ADDITIONAL MINE AREA

Mine area 1,525,600 sq. ft.
= 35.0 acres.

Total area for overburden and access
100' x 4,600' = 10.60 acres.

Total mine cut overburden
= 169,511 cubic yards.

STREAM DIVERSION

Total area for stream diversion 50' x
4,400' = 5.0 acres.

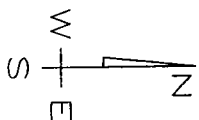
Actual diversion channel 20' x 4,400' =
2.0 acres.

Material excavated from channel 20' x
4,400' x 3' = 9,777 cu. yds.

Placement of excavated material = 30'
x 4,400' or fill to 3.0 acres

POA-1993-87-R

DRAWN BY: TMC	DATE: 1/31/2007
	DRAWING NO.: 3
	SHEET 3 of 5



Scale 1 = 1600'

Aloha Creek

Federal claim
52108

Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
Aloha Creek
Reclamation Plan

MS2107

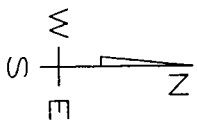


Approximate reclaimed mine area

Road from Bear Creek

MS2106

POA-1993-87-R

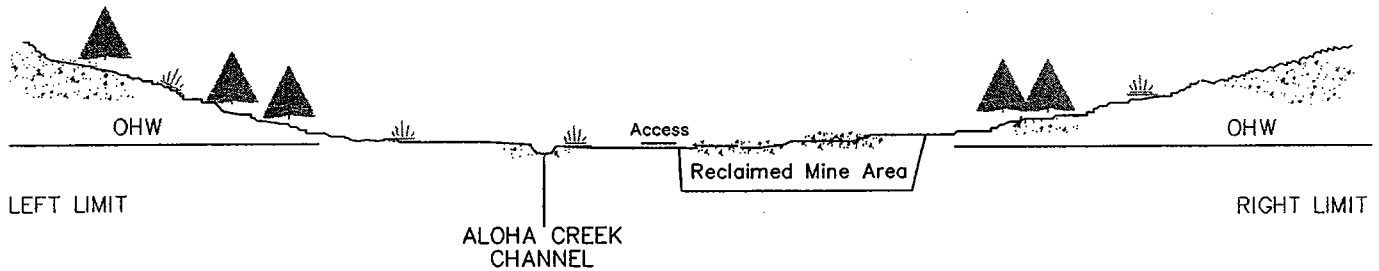


Scale 1 = 1600'

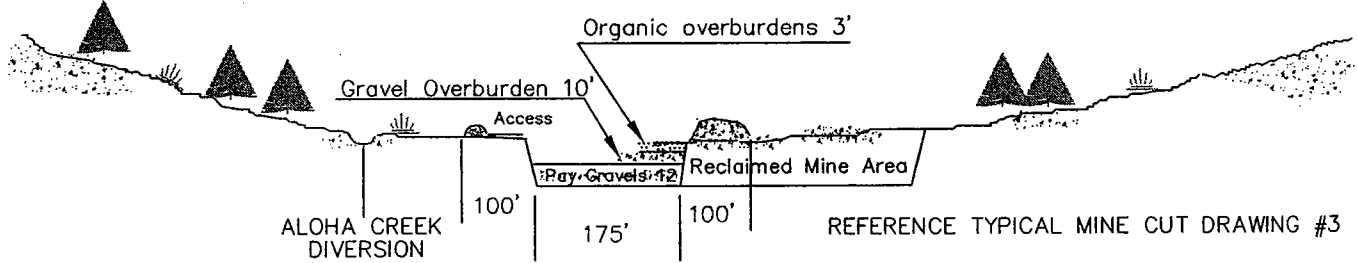
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		DRAWING NO.:	4
		SHEET	4 of 5

Taiga Mining Co. Inc.
Aloha Creek
Typical Cross Sections

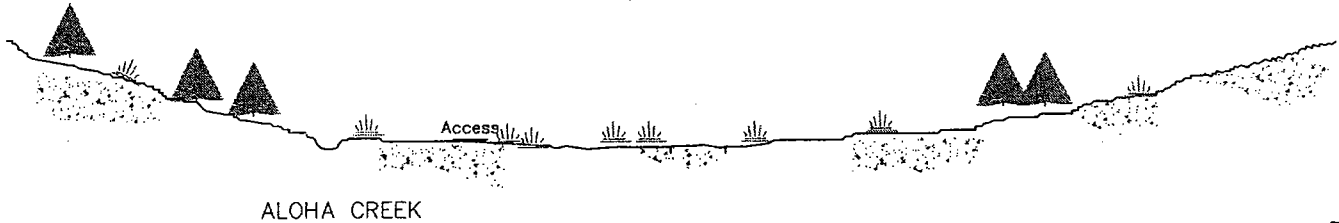
BEFORE MINING



DURING MINING



AFTER MINING



POA-1993-87-R

NOT TO SCALE

DRAWN BY: TMC	DATE: 1/31/2007
	DRAWING NO: 5
	SHEET 5 of 5

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING

OFFICE OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING
550 WEST 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 705
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3559
PHONE: (907) 269-7470/FAX: (907) 269-3981

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
FOR
CERTIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE
ALASKA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Notice is hereby given that a request is being filed with the Office of Project Management and Permitting for a consistency determination, as provided in Section 307(c)(3) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended [16 U.S.C. 1456(c)(3)], that the project described in the Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. POA-1993-87-R, Aloha Creek, will comply with the Alaska Coastal Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

The Office of Project Management and Permitting requests your comments, particularly on the proposed project's consistency with the affected local coastal district management program. For more information on the consistency review contact OPMP at (907) 269-7470 or (907) 465-3562, or visit the ACMP web site at <http://www.gov.state.ak.us/gdc/Projects/projects.html>.

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF WATER

401 Certification Program

Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-1993-87-R, Aloha Creek, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify that there is reasonable assurance that the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification may submit written comments by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. Comments should be sent to the following address:

Department of Environmental Conservation
WQM/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2617
Telephone: (907) 269-6281
FAX: (907) 269-7508